



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,590	12/08/2003	Mark G. Chanya	GP-303055	2125

7590 09/26/2005
LAURA C. HARGITT
General Motors Corporation
Mail Code 482-C23-B21
P.O. Box 300
Detroit, MI 48265-3000

EXAMINER ESTREMSKY, GARY WAYNE	
ART UNIT 3676	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/730,590

Applicant(s)

CHANYA, MARK G.

Examiner

Gary Estremsky

Art Unit

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 10, 12-14 and 16-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 11 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/22/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 4-7, 9, 10, 12, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/0121786 to Meinke.

Meinke '786 teaches Applicant's claim limitations including : a "handle housing" - 28, a "door handle" - 34, "at least one spring" – either of springs 54,56 as they are arranged anticipate limitation of claim 4, a "cam" – particularly including 30f, "upper portion of said door handle" – 37 where direction(s) are not otherwise defined in the

Art Unit: 3676

claim with respect to other claimed structure(s) in such a way as to patentably distinguish from an orientation of the prior art device where part 37 is uppermost.

As regards claim 1 for example, it's noted that since the handle's pivot point is arranged at a generally intermediate location along its height, pushing in the lower portion of the handle, contrary to the "all" limitation.

As regards claim 6, rod portion 50 anticipates "rod pivotally connecting" limitation where 'connecting' is broad enough to include intermediate elements.

As regards claim 7, side piece 30d anticipates "bail" limitation where recitation of "cooperating with" is broad since it does not specify any particular structural connection or arrangement that can be relied upon to patentably distinguish from the well known structure of the prior art in the same field of endeavor.

As regards claim 8,11, reference does not fairly teach the spring arrangement as set forth in the claim. causes a portion of the handle above the pivot point to pivot outwardly.

As regards claim 16, prior art teaches springs 54,56 that read on broad limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3676

5. Claims 1, 2, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/0121786 to Meinke.

As noted above, due to the location of the pivot of the handle of Meinke '786, a portion of the handle protrudes when the lower portion is pressed in. However, the reference clearly teaches providing a flush handle that is pressed in to be released from its flush position and the protruding portion is not otherwise related of the disclosed function and intended benefit of the device. The portion that protrudes when the handle is pressed is inherent to the particular pivot location, but not the desired features/function otherwise disclosed by the reference whereby it would have been an obvious design choice for one of ordinary skill in the art to have the pivot location higher up, to avoid pinch points (between uppermost portion of the handle and the housing) for example, where such modification would not otherwise affect function of the handle assembly.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 8, 11, and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 20-24 are allowed.

Conclusion

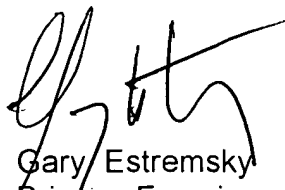
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 6,575,503 to Johansson.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Estremsky whose telephone number is 571 272-7055. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thur 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on 571 272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Gary Estremsky
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3676